

BARE KENNEDY MYSTERY MAN IN CENSOR QUIZ

Broad Powers of Aid to McNamara Told

BY WILLARD EDWARDS
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Feb. 21—Senate investigators, it was disclosed today, are scrutinizing the role of Adam Yarmolinsky, a special assistant to Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, in the alleged censorship of anti-communist military leaders.

Yarmolinsky, 40, a Washington lawyer with powerful White House and state department connections, occupies a somewhat shadowy position in the Pentagon.

When asked about his duties, he refers to the official statement of his appointment on Jan. 24, 1961, which states that he will carry out "special projects and duties in various areas."

Bobs Up in Censor Ban

The Senate armed services subcommittee has been receiving reports about Yarmolinsky ever since it acquired last fall into charges that civilian defense department officials had imposed a ban on strong anti-communist statements and activities by military men.

On Feb. 13, it was learned, the subcommittee forwarded to the Pentagon a request for an interview with Yarmolinsky by a staff investigator. A reply from Cyrus R. Vance, defense department secretary, said Yarmolinsky was not available when wanted. He has not yet been questioned.

The subcommittee letter stated that Yarmolinsky would be asked to discuss his "participation in clearing of training films and in other events involving defense department public programs of the 'Captive Nations' work."

"Tough Films" Held Out

The subcommittee gathered evidence for elimination of films in months, of stress.

Charges have been made that military men have been forbidden to take part in such programs.

James Kendall, subcommittee counsel, reluctantly conceded the arrangement for discussing these subjects with Yarmolinsky, noting that the defense department official had not been summoned as a witness.

A Kennedy Talent Scout

The counsel's caution was understandable. Yarmolinsky's standing is high with the Kennedy administration. For a two-month period prior to the Kennedy inauguration, he was one of the President's chief "talent scouts" and his recommendations placed many officials in key posts.

Next to the President's brother, Robert F. Kennedy, and his brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver, Yarmolinsky was described as "the man to see" by job hunters in the hectic pre-inaugural period.

The reasons for his selection as dispenser of patronage remain as obscure as his present duties. He had been known in Washington earlier, mainly as the author of a strong attack upon the federal loyalty-security system, issued in August, 1955.

This was a study of 80 cases involving government employees.

upon data from the files of lawyers who defended the employees. The Federal Bureau of Investigation files, containing the evidence on which proceedings were instigated against the employees, were not available.

Two years earlier, at the height of the uproar over charges of communism in the state department made by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy [R., Wis.], Yarmolinsky had described the national clamor as "popular hysteria."

His friends and supporters are said to include White House aide Theodore C. [Ted] Sorensen, Undersecretary of State, and Ball, Secretary of State, and Robert A. Lovett, Secretary of defense in the Truman administration, and Shriver, for whom he worked as assistant in the 1960 Kennedy campaign.

Another Harvard Man

Born in New York City in 1921, Yarmolinsky got his degree at Harvard university in 1943. He served as private and lieutenant in the air force until 1945, worked as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Stanley R. Reed, and then engaged in law practice with two prominent Washington firms.

He has remained quietly in the background since taking his Pentagon post but gained some publicity last October when he told the Women's National Democratic club here that Washington would probably not be a nuclear target in war because "many would want to be there if the government left to deal with it."

STAT